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THE
STEWARDSHIP
OF THE
AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.
—♦—
ITS CHARITABLE RECEIPTS,
AND
WHAT IT DID WITH THEM.
1871.
—♦—

THE year just closed has been memorable for physical and political, but especially for religious events and changes. These have incited the Society to renewed energy and zeal in old and new and ever-widening spheres and modes of labor.

The new publications issued at the Tract House during the year are 235, of which 40 are volumes, including Dr. Hanna's *Life of Christ*, Dr. Schaff's *Person of Christ*, Dr. Plumer's *Popular and Short Sermons for the People*, *Poems of Home Life*, *Life at Threescore and Ten*, by Rev. Albert Barnes, *The New Life*, a book for revivals, and others; making the whole number of publications on the Society's list 4,804, of which 921 are volumes.

Besides these, the Committee have approved, to be issued at foreign missionary stations, wholly or in part by the Society's funds, 60 publications, including 20 volumes; making the whole number approved for publication abroad 4,015, of which 588 are volumes.

PERIODICALS.

Three new periodicals, two weekly and one monthly, have been commenced. The *MORNING LIGHT*, issued monthly, is intended for mission schools, infant classes, freedmen, and other beginners. It began January, 1871, and its present circulation is 30,000. Price the same as that of the *Child's Paper*.

The *DEUTSCHER VOLKSFREUND*, or German People's Friend, is issued weekly at \$2 per year. A paper greatly needed.

The *ILLUSTRATED CHRISTIAN WEEKLY*, an elegant pictorial weekly at two dollars per year, is an effort to make art effective in teaching religion. Only a specimen number had appeared at the close of the Society's year, the regular issues commencing April 15.

The average monthly circulation of the *American Messenger* for the year has been 164,500 copies; of the *Child's Paper*, 340,416 copies; of the *Botschafter*, 40,375 copies; total of all three for the year, 6,543,500; total from the beginning, 132,164,200.

The whole number of copies of publications issued by the Society is 459,385,244, of which 25,000,000 are volumes.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The receipts for the year, including \$121,487 15 in donations and legacies, are \$492,182 50; the expenditures are \$491,788 83; leaving a balance in the treasury of \$394 67. Of the donations and legacies, there was received from the New England states \$38,297 25; from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, \$79,807 58; from the Western and Northwestern states, \$11,715 35; from the Southern and Southwestern states, \$1,464 72; and from foreign countries, \$292 25.

Of the donations, \$12,166 was for the publishing fund of the *Illustrated Christian Weekly*; leaving \$109,321 15 for the Society's ordinary benevolent work.

Expended for salaries and travelling expenses of colporteurs \$56,585 79; cash appropriations for mission presses abroad, \$6,000; grants for publications, including annuities to Life Directors and Members, \$50,482 66; making a total of \$113,068 45 expended in benevolent work. Thus showing that the Society's benevolent expenditures exceed its benevolent receipts.

GRATUITOUS DISTRIBUTION.

The value of the publications granted by the Committee, largely to those desiring them for personal distribution, including annuities,

was \$50,482 66, or nearly a thousand dollars a week. Of these seventy-five million pages, nearly one-tenth was distributed through missionaries in the foreign field, and another tenth by seamen's chaplains and others among the sailors and seafaring people, nearly 2,000 vessels being thus supplied with the printed gospel.

To the Army, Navy, and Freedmen, in addition to grants by colporteurs, to Young Men's Christian Associations, Literary and Humane Institutions, including prisons, over 12,000,000 pages have been granted. Nearly the same amount has been distributed through Mission Sabbath-schools, Home Missionaries, and others laboring among the destitute.

The remaining 37,000,000 pages were distributed through the Colporteurs, Agents, Life Members, and Life Directors of the Society, chiefly in needy districts of the South and West.

Thus has the Society coöperated with Christians, individual or organized, and rendered efficient aid to the churches of every name in the work of evangelization.

COLPORTAGE.

Union Missionary Colportage combines personal appeal, printed truth, and believing prayer. It has been successfully prosecuted by the Society for thirty years, during which over 4,600 years of this kind of labor has been performed. During the past year, 287 colporteurs, including 54 students from 23 colleges and theological seminaries, were engaged in thirty-three states of the Union and in adjoining British provinces. They held or addressed nearly 10,000 religious meetings; made 278,448 family visits; conversed on personal religion or prayed with 194,809 families; found 41,692 Protestant families who habitually neglected attending evangelical preaching; 12,336 families of Roman-catholics, over 21,000 families destitute of all religious books except the Bible, and 13,295 Protestant families without the word of God.

It is believed that the statistics above, showing spiritual destitutions, are much below what the actual condition of the people visited would warrant. The nature of the inquiries is such that the complete information desired is not easily obtained.

In order to furnish colporteurs with publications and to secure the wisest possible supervision of their labors, depositories have been established and superintendents appointed at eight great commercial centres, as follows:

Boston, 116 Washington-street, H. E. Simmons, Superintendent.

Rochester, 75 State-street, O. D. Grosvenor,	Superintendent.
Philadelphia, 1408 Chestnut-street, H. N. Thissell,	"
Richmond, 914 Main-street, T. L. D. Walford,	"
Cincinnati, 163 Walnut-street, Seely Wood,	"
St. Louis, 4 S. Fifth-street, Rev. Charles Peabody,	"
Chicago, 68 Adams-street, Rev. Glen Wood,	"
San Francisco, 757 Market-street, Rev. F. E. Shearer,	"

During the year there were engaged in connection with the agency at Boston nine colporteurs, at Rochester twenty-one, Philadelphia sixty-four, Richmond seventy-two, Cincinnati forty-two, Chicago thirty-four, St. Louis thirty-two, and San Francisco thirteen.

Many of the features of this work are common to the field of each agency, others are peculiar, and appear somewhat at length in the report of each agency, as found in the Society's Annual Report.

One colporteur in Maine reports ten hopeful conversions through the two small books, "Call to Prayer" and "Come to Jesus." Another in Massachusetts is met by infidels circulating their tracts, but finds a welcome for himself and his soul-saving truth from all classes. Colporteur Weicker of New York carried Christian sympathy to the 180,000 German immigrants landing at Castle Garden, and visited also upon his errand of love 164 steam and sailing vessels in the harbor.

The field of the Philadelphia agency shows unusual religious interest, especially in the mountain districts of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Several of the colporteurs, being ordained clergymen and laboring in places with few spiritual privileges, circulated in their family visits by day, appointments for public meetings at night, and the meetings continuing for successive days, were greatly blessed in the quickening and strengthening of the few believers found, and in the salvation of souls. In other places such efforts were made with the personal coöperation of the itinerant denominational missionaries, who gave unmistakable proofs of their high appreciation of the colporteur as a pioneer in missionary fields.

In the Richmond Agency, extending from Virginia through the South Atlantic states and Alabama, the spiritual harvest has been very large. Over three thousand souls are believed to have been converted, in more or less intimate connection with colportage.

COLPORTAGE PERMANENT.

Families tell with gratitude of the visits of colporteurs of former years to their homes, of the books and tracts left, whose influence,

exerted for almost a generation, is still fresh and powerful. One lady, showing a copy of Baxter's call, says, "This precious book was the means of my conversion and that of several of my neighbors, and recently also of one of my children."

SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

During the year the Society has organized or aided through the Richmond Agency over seven hundred Sabbath-schools. Eleven new evangelical churches, formed upon this field by various denominations within the year, are, to a large extent, fruits of this mission Sabbath-school work. Within ten miles of one of the largest cities on the field, a community was found without any means of Christian instruction. Young men and women had never heard a sermon, and the older ones had not been in a church for fifteen or twenty years. A Sabbath-school has been formed and a grant of books made, a house of worship erected, and stated preaching once a month is now sustained there.

One county in Southwestern Virginia, when entered by a colporteur, did not contain a single Sabbath-school. Now nine schools are in successful operation.

THE COLORED PEOPLE.

Three colporteurs in this field labored exclusively among the freedmen, and all have taken particular interest in establishing Sabbath-schools, holding religious meetings, and distributing among them books and tracts suitable to their capacities. Many thousands in this way have learned to read. We give a few extracts from letters and reports of labors in this branch of the work.

Rev. H. S. P.—of North Carolina says: "I have organized and assisted twenty-three Sunday-schools; five of them were among the colored people. I am happy to say they are improving, and the labor bestowed is not in vain."

Another, on the coast of South Carolina, writes: "My calls are constantly increasing to go and preach to the poor and the outcasts, both white and colored, some so earnest and pressing, that my heart melts before such appeals. The blacks generally belong to the church, but many know only the name of Christ. They are great worshippers, but many are strangers to grace. This is owing, I think, much to the ignorance of their colored preachers, of whom they sometimes ask indulgences. But this state of things is fast giving place to deep sober thought. These remarks apply particularly to

those on the islands and coast. They need enlightened preachers and teachers to hold up Jesus continually. I have held several interesting meetings during the year, in which many have turned unto the Lord; congregations have been multiplied, Sabbath-schools organized and aided. I have never known such a widespread interest in the work."

Rev. W. J. M—— of Georgia says: "Our colored Sabbath-schools are succeeding finely; my heart leaped for joy to see the progress they had made. It would do you good to hear how well they recite the Scripture and catechism, and sing the songs of Zion. As to order, we have never seen better anywhere."

Rev. W. O. D——, also of Georgia, says: "The colored people are earnestly trying to educate themselves. Many of them can now read and write. Quite an interest has been awakened among them, growing out of the instructions given them at Sunday-school. The old as well as the young attend, and are taught to read and appreciate the word of God. These people are poor, but the prospect for doing good is a bright one. They have built three new churches this year on my field."

The report of this agency concludes as follows:

"The evidences of good accomplished in various ways, the large number of souls brought to Christ in connection with the work during six years, the hundreds of thousands who have been brought under religious instruction in Sabbath-schools, prayer-meetings, and around family altars, the thousands that are to-day reading God's word by aid of the helps afforded them by the Society, and the circulation of over \$150,000 worth of religious truth, call for gratitude unceasing, and faith for the future."

In Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, colportage during the year has been mainly voluntary; but recent arrangements have been made for a more extended work, especially in Texas. In addition to sales, over a million pages have been gratuitously distributed during the year, chiefly among the destitute.

In the Cincinnati Agency, embracing Kentucky, Tennessee, and portions of Ohio and Indiana, one-seventh of the colporteurs were engaged, and publications to the value of nearly twenty-six thousand dollars were circulated.

The great Northwest is reached from the agency at *Chicago*. Upon this field the colporteurs during the year made nearly forty-one thousand Christian family visits. Every thirteenth Protestant family visited was found destitute of all religious books except the

Bible, and every twenty-ninth was a Protestant family without the word of God. An average of eighteen hopeful conversions have occurred in connection with the personal labors of each colporteur, combined of course with other and permanent instrumentalities, especially the books and tracts distributed.

"Don't Swear" was the means of reforming a wayward and ungovernable boy; through "Little Robbie" a great change was wrought in an entire household; an infidel was converted through tracts which he said "somebody sowed on his farm;" and another soul was brought to Christ through the reading of James' *Anxious Inquirer*.

A colporteur in Iowa describes a day of visitation in a farming and lumbering district, in which he finds fifteen families, four of them destitute of the Bible, and one of the houses the home of thirty men.

Another in Wisconsin writes: "Some say they are benefited by the books; others that they are encouraged by my visits. Several new Sunday-schools have been formed, and twenty-seven new schools have been aided during the year."

Still another, laboring in Dacotah, visits the rapidly growing settlements, and aids in inaugurating Christian work, especially Sabbath-schools. In one of these places forty-five, and in another twenty, have been added to the church. "This country," he says, "is fast settling up, and there is great destitution of religious reading in the territory."

The superintendent in closing his report earnestly appeals in behalf of these perishing multitudes, so accessible to gospel truth, and so insufficiently supplied. He wonderingly asks how the churches can afford to leave the Society with less than a quarter of a million of dollars for grants and colportage in the Northwestern field.

The vast plains of Southern Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas, stretching westward to the Rocky mountains, are embraced in the field of the *St. Louis Agency*.

The face of this region is undergoing rapid and extensive changes. Railroads are piercing the wilderness in every direction, people from all quarters are arriving and settling, and towns and villages spring up almost as by magic. Along these great thoroughfares, and among these increasing populations, colporteurs have a great mission. They have followed closely in the footsteps of the engineers, as they have gone forward laying the iron track through Western and Southern Kansas.

During the winter, one of our veteran missionary colporteurs,

going into the regions beyond, penetrated into the Indian Nation, where he found a people only recently snatched from barbarism, but now elevated into a Christian civilization, which is a rich result of the gospel and Christian missions. He has carried publications with diligent footsteps to the homes of the Cherokees, and found among them everywhere a cordial welcome.

While our great work among the older Western states is vastly important, we look to the newer states and communities as the most promising sphere for its expansion.

The headquarters of the *Pacific Agency* are at 757 Market-street, San Francisco. Rev. Frederic E. Shearer is District Secretary, and D. W. McLeod, Depositary. The states and territories west of the Rocky mountains constitute the field. The District Secretary says: "The first year's operations in a new agency have ended. A steady persistent effort, amid discouraging circumstances, has been in many respects successful.

"Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, and Methodist ecclesiastical bodies have warmly commended the plans and operations of the Society, and Christians of all evangelical denominations have manifested their interest in the work; and some who rejoice in the elevating and humanizing power of the gospel, but have not yet put on the name of Christ, have rendered aid."

THE STATISTICS.

So far as the work admits of record in statistical form, it is as follows: The business of the Agency, including donations received and publications circulated, was \$12,863 57. The colporteurs were thirteen, one a native Chinaman; their aggregate labor five years for one man. They held 414 religious meetings, visited 1,078 Roman-catholic families, and made a total of 11,101 family visits. The Chinamen are either unmarried or their wives are mostly in China, so that the total of family visits above reported does not include the work of Chen Chung, the Chinese colporteur. Several hundred Sabbath-schools were visited, forty-two were aided by grants of books, including maps, books, or charts for ten Chinese schools, and ten new Sabbath-schools have been organized.

THE SUPPORT.

While the welcome has been cordial, the material support rendered was not very great. Christians are not many. The great resources of the coast are not consecrated to the Lord. Only four per cent. of

the people of California are in membership with evangelical churches. The Roman-catholics claim control of one-half of the population. In all the territory west of the Rocky mountains there are about a million inhabitants, and only about thirty thousand, or three per cent. of these, are identified with churches. Nearly all of these are in California and Oregon. It is encouraging to note their rapid increase. In 1859 California had only 6,312 church-members. Now there are about 23,000, an increase of 360 per cent. The increase of population in the meantime has been only 52 per cent. The number might be increased if all the professing Christians could identify themselves with some particular church. Many live in remote regions. One rejoiced to see a colporteur, because for seven years he had not seen a face beaming with the love of Christ, nor met a single person in sympathy with his religious life. But with all due allowance, the people of the Lord are few in number. These, too, are divided into various denominations, and as such are heavily taxed to build church edifices and maintain stated preaching.

OUTSIDE OF SAN FRANCISCO and the largest cities or towns, but few churches are self-supporting. Under favorable circumstances California cannot give the gospel to the waste places on the coast, and the present is a time of great trial in the most prosperous portion of the field. The drought of last year affected mining no less than agriculture. Failures were never so many nor business so dull. But while the various expenses of the churches must be borne by a few, it is not uncommon to see a score or two of people struggling to sustain their little church, send up also from ten to twenty dollars towards furnishing a colporteur for this field. When the utmost is done here, we must continue to look East for the strong to bear in part the burdens of the weak.

THE GREAT NEEDS OF THIS FIELD

Arise both from the cosmopolitan character of the people, the extent of territory, and the prevalence of immorality and infidelity. The four quarters of the globe are represented in the population. San Francisco alone has forty thousand Germans. In Southern California about one-fourth are Spanish-speaking. This class is found everywhere, and there is not one evangelical preacher in their tongue on all the coast. About seventy thousand Chinamen are among us, many of whom are ready to hear of Christ. But *no minister can preach to all these classes without the many-tongued press of the Society.*

The extent of territory and the scattered population will cause

many of the present generation to pass away without the preached word, if they must wait for the establishment of churches. There are large counties with thousands of people, and no churches with stated preaching. In the county in which gold was discovered—the Eldorado—the population is ten thousand, and only four thousand of these are accessible to evangelical churches. In one of the villages of this county, only twelve miles from the county-seat, settled twenty years ago, there was never a religious meeting of any character till a few months since. Calaveras county, in which are the big trees, with a population of nine thousand, has not a single minister of the gospel.

The Central Pacific Railroad has many radiating points from which to sow the good seed. Teamsters returning to Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Northern and Southern California ask for books to read to lighten their toilsome way. Pious men and women going to reside in these regions beyond the churches, ask for tracts and Sabbath-school libraries. West of the Rocky mountains there are about one hundred and eighty thousand children of suitable Sabbath-school age, only thirty thousand of whom are in Protestant schools. The field of one of our colporteurs extends one hundred miles from the mouth of the Columbia river. In all this field there are but five Sabbath schools, and Astoria is the only place enjoying stated preaching on the Sabbath.

The western coast of Mexico, with quite a number of evangelical Christians, and many inquiring for the gospel, asks by nearly every steamer for light and truth. To the Sandwich Islands, Alaska, and Australia, we are sending the bread of life.

The prevalence of immorality and infidelity is alarming. We might expect that, in a scattered and rural population, the people even of immoral life would not openly avow infidelity; but it is not so. In every locality there are to be found advocates of the various theories that oppose and deny the word of God. The population has shifted till in every town, every cañon, and every mine the people are not strangers to all the latest and most specious forms of scientific falsehood. Without Sabbath laws, with profanity, gambling, intemperance, and the worst social evils in the most shocking forms so largely tolerated, the force of public opinion is against deep piety. One of the most learned and extensively acquainted ministers on the coast says he “has never seen such utter contempt and indifference shown to the subject of religion as exists around him.”

THE CHINESE AND WORK AMONG THEM.

Of the seventy thousand in the country, about twelve thousand are in San Francisco. There are in this city three missionaries who have labored in China. Sabbath-schools for this people are connected with some of the larger churches, and some of the Chinese merchants, in their anxiety to fit themselves for business, employ private tutors. To week-day and night schools the Society has furnished help, and for these Chen Chung, its colporteur, has gathered scholars. The instruction in English will be greatly aided when the Chinese and English elementary book, prepared by Rev. A. W. Loomis, and now in press, is ready for use. Christianity is taught them most readily and best in their own language. Even the Scriptures and tracts in Chinese are not sufficient. The written language is like a synopsis which cannot be read easily except on a partial acquaintance with the subject. We need Bible helpers, and the heathen need them more. Hence Chinese colportage is the best practicable means of reaching all who are not accessible to the missionaries who speak their language. The colporteur visits them in their cigar-shops, restaurants, stores, washhouses, and manufactories of all kinds, in the mines, on ranches and public improvements, and gives them the word of truth and life. He everywhere finds some who desire instruction from the Bible, and under his daily and constant teachings and his prayers he has brought several to Christ, who are now members of various churches.

Kum Lum has just been commissioned for work in Idaho and Oregon. Ten thousand Chinamen cut off from all Sabbath and other schools are accessible to him. "His joy is to lead sinners to the Saviour."

Rev. Dr. Lindsley of Portland wrote concerning him: "I hear good accounts of Kum Lum, residing in Boise City. He possesses great influence and is known as a Christian, and is almost the only reputable one in that region." Another clergyman, after going throughout the territory, says: "The most active Christian I found in Idaho was Kum Lum, a Chinaman."

What has been accomplished among this people by a single colporteur affords abundant cause for thanksgiving, and should stimulate the churches to multiply these laborers.

The success of colportage is assured. Besides the incalculable influence in time to come of the literature circulated, the family visits made, and public meetings held, some have been quickened and saved.

One colporteur, an intelligent physician and gentleman of high culture, writes :

"I found many anxious souls melted down in tears when addressed on the subject of personal religion." Again: "I found the owner of a large ranch and father of a family, who said he had no Bible, had not been to any religious meeting for years, and had never seen a clergyman in his house. I left him choked with the memory of a mother's prayers, the tears running down his cheeks, and sobbing almost aloud."

Another says: "I often have the joy of pointing *inquirers* to Christ, and if I ever pass along where I have been before, I am sure to hear, 'Your books are much better than I thought they were.' I made my way through dense brush into a valley where thirteen families are living. They had had no religious meeting of any kind for the last nine months. They crowded the schoolhouse to hear of Christ. One grateful man said he believed I was a travelling converter."

Another writes: "I have labored in the midst of a revival of religion, and perhaps it would not be too much to say that the means through which it was graciously accomplished were largely the publications of the Society."

Another reports *three revivals* from his labors. In one of these five professed Christ, in another ten, and the third resulted in the organization of a church with twenty-two members. He says: "I have preached the gospel for thirty-three years, but never before did I see such a field before me for extensive usefulness."

Another visited a family where the wife and mother remarked: "These books are all too full of piety for me. I am a Universalist, but my husband is a church-member." At my request to choose a tract, she took one on "Universalism," "just to see what could be said against it." When I called again, I found that through that tract the Spirit of God had done his work. She professed Christ, and asked for devotional books for her family.

The tract, "Prepare to Meet Thy God," was handed to a man, who afterwards picked it up to wipe his razor on, and it became the sword of the Spirit to slay his enmity and bring him to Christ.

Ministers in different localities have expressed their gratitude for the labors of colporteurs in their field, and clergymen of Nevada have made an urgent appeal for one to come to their help. Thus, and in other ways, God is setting his seal on our ministry.

THE WORK IN UTAH.

Mormonism, while it dishonors, professes to accept the Bible. The Word is read in the family and taught in the Sabbath-schools. While many of the people were the most degraded of the Old and New World, most of the children learn to read. The rapid development of the mines, the large influx of people, and the religious and political movements of the day, urge us to enter in and sow the seeds of a sound doctrine. Thus far our work has been confined mainly to Sabbath-schools. With a Sabbath-school system extending through all the territory and a Sabbath-school paper, the Mormons have scarcely any religious libraries. President Brigham Young, the

superintendents of common and Sabbath schools, and others, render us efficient aid in visiting the schools, and as fast as our means allow we can give these children the blessing of a soul-saving literature.

SHALL THE WORK BE ENLARGED ?

Can we not put on every steamer that goes to China and Australia such papers, books, and tracts as will lead the long voyagers to know and acknowledge Him whose "way is in the sea" and "path in the great waters"? Shall *the miners* go from camp to camp, dwelling in their wretched saloons, and be uncared for because the minister cannot gather around him a permanent people? While seeking earthly riches, shall they not be offered the pearl of great price or the hidden treasure? Shall the colporteurs be only ten where they ought to be a hundred?

FOREIGN AND PAGAN LANDS.

The Society has continued to aid toiling missionaries of every Board in preparing and diffusing a religious literature in the language of those among whom they labor.

For this purpose, in addition to fifteen million pages distributed through foreign missionaries and among seamen, the Committee have this year appropriated six thousand dollars, making nearly six hundred thousand thus expended since the formation of the Society.

SUCCESSFUL COLPORTAGE IN MEXICO. Miss Rankin, who is sustained by the American and Foreign Christian Union, and who is effecting so much in the evangelization of Mexico, in a recent note respecting the labors of the colporteurs who are circulating books of the American Tract Society under her direction, says :

"Mexico is miserably poor, and getting poorer every day, yet there never was a time when the truth was taking hold of the hearts of the people as at present. The work our colporteurs did at San Luis is telling. I have received two urgent requests for a permanent laborer to be sent there. There is a congregation which meets for instruction, and the way is opened for the organization of a Protestant church.

"We received two members into our church at Monterey a short time ago, who were brought to renounce Romanism and embrace the gospel by reading the Tract Society's books. While God is blessing his truth in the salvation of souls, we must not withhold it."

The Rev. H. C. Riley, to whom the Committee granted above \$800 in publications during the year, continues his zealous and successful labors in the capital.

SOUTH AMERICA. The Society also coöperates with the missiona-

ries of the American and Foreign Christian Union and other laborers in South America, by providing them a large and increasing stock of publications in Spanish and Portuguese, and granting them as far as the funds of the Society will allow.

Allusion has already been made to

THE GOSPEL UPON SHIPS VISITING THIS PORT. Through the voluntary efforts of seamen, 1,550,000 pages, in the French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian languages, have gone by 979 vessels, into 85 distinct ports in Roman-catholic countries.

This work has for many years been under the efficient management of Mr. John S. Pierson of the New York Bible Society. Many American, British, and German captains now gladly engage in this work, receiving appropriate books and tracts, and of the proper language, in this port, and distributing them in the foreign ports to visitors from shore, merchants, workmen, custom-house officers, and to vessels lying alongside. Occasionally this distribution has been made ashore, in streets, counting-rooms, and private houses. Further, through the agency of captains of 445 vessels, two-thirds of the immigrants to this port have been met at sea by tracts from this Society, 1,400,000 pages having been granted for this purpose. Other distribution upon 157 vessels, including all our East India and California shipping, makes the aggregate circulation among seamen and *through their agency for the benefit of others*, 4,233,000 pages. We know of no more efficient and economical mode for sending the gospel of Christ into every civilized, semi-heathen, and papal port of our world.

PORTUGAL. An interesting field has opened to the Society in Portugal. Manuel Carvalho, converted through the reading of "Lucila," a publication of the American Tract Society in Spanish, has labored for more than a year successfully as a colporteur of this Society in Oporto. A Sabbath-school in Hartford, Conn., contributes \$150 per annum for his support, and the Society furnishes the needed publications.

SPAIN. It is a pleasant evidence of the advance of free principles, that the stringent laws of Spain against the importation and circulation of Bibles and religious books in general, have been relaxed, the civil power now controlling what heretofore was in the hands of the priesthood. In securing this change, the representative of the United States at Madrid took an important part.

Mr. George Lawrence, from one of the churches of New York city, now laboring at Barcelona, acknowledging a grant of publications, writes of the continued thirst for knowledge of the better kind.

He believes that the tract, "Andrew Dunn," has done more good than any other publication in the Spanish tongue. Of this he has himself distributed 20,000 copies. He concludes as follows: "Considering the time, great and glorious have been the results. I rejoice in seeing great things done by others. I glory in God who has allowed me to labor here, and who has crowned that labor with success."

IN SWEDEN many precious fruits of tract distribution have been gathered during the year.

FROM RUSSIA comes a stirring appeal for tracts on intemperance.

GERMANY. During the recent European war the Society sent publications to the value of \$1,255 for distribution among the soldiers, including the sick and wounded in the hospitals and 300,000 French prisoners. These publications were chiefly distributed through prominent Christian ministers in Germany, from whom many gratifying reports have been received, similar to those received from our Christian Commission delegates during our own recent conflict.

Many accounts from Germany indicate that strong religious impressions have been made by the war on many minds. German Christians have been greatly stirred up to new activity for Christ.

ITALY—ROME. The changes in Italy have given opportunities to the Italian Publication Society which have been well improved. Colporteurs followed in the wake of the troops, entered Rome, and began their work with the least possible delay. A thousand Christian Almanacs were disposed of in two days. While Italian Christians are writing that the circulation of religious tracts and books is indispensable to Italian evangelization, Cardinal Antonelli issues a circular bewailing the ruin that is coming over the Eternal City by the circulation of Protestant books. The Society, appreciating this power, has sent \$200 in aid of this work in Italy.

In the PAGAN WORLD the press is increasingly powerful as the people emerge from the thick darkness towards Christianity and civilization. The Central and Western Turkey mission press is rapidly increasing its books, periodicals, and occasional issues.

SYRIA. The translation and printing of the Scriptures in Arabic is a monument to the learning, skill, and patience of the noble men of the Syrian mission. They now desire to publish an Arabic Concordance, that important Bible help, and we are at least hopeful that before the close of another year some friend of the Society will enable it through these men to provide this key to unlock the treasures of the word of God for one hundred millions of Arabic-speaking people.

INDIA. Tract work in the Kolapoor mission has been vigorously

prosecuted by the native converts during the year. Since 1861 nearly 30,000 tracts and books have been circulated. Rev. Mr. Wilder says : "The tract work must go on, and we must look to your Society for help in prosecuting it."

Similar cheering statements and urgent appeals come from the same people through the Madura, Ceylon, Arcot, Orissa, and the Baptist and Lutheran Teloo goo missions ; from the president of the Publication Committee of the Lodia na mission, Northern India, and from Burmah and Assam.

CHINA. Amid the discouragements of growing hostility to Christianity, the missionaries with heroic faith are enlarging and revising the evangelical literature, and preparing to sow the good seed in all parts of the empire. The word will not return void ; the blade, the ear, and the full corn in the ear will come. Meanwhile the American churches cannot afford that their laborers at Canton, Amoy, Foo Chow, Shanghai, Tientsin, and Peking shall plead in vain.

Thus do we render an account of our stewardship, joyful that the Master has intrusted so much to the Society, and has so greatly blessed its operations, and with the earnest hope that enlarged means and increased blessings will mark its future years.

The Society's business operations are self-sustaining. *Donations are needed only for its benevolent work.*

Three hundred dollars will pay the salary of a colporteur ; \$500 will pay his salary and expenses. \$50 constitutes a Life Director of the Society, and \$20 a Life Member.

Donations may be sent to O. R. Kingsbury, Treasurer, 150 Nassau-street, New York, or to any of the agencies.